

Monthly Report for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: Farm Concern International, FCI **Report for the month of:** July 2011

During the month of July 2011, several activities were undertaken to further consolidate established post harvest management and storage technologies aimed at enhancing quality of grains for improve marketing and income to the target beneficiaries. Commercial Village farmers' capacity was further enhanced on core areas including record keeping, post harvest management aspects (harvesting, drying, shelling/threshing, sorting & grading, storage technologies, quality control) as well as marketing as both project sites commenced the current season's harvesting period. In addition, target farmers' skills in handling of grains were enhanced at the household level with continued establishment and upgrading of the household storage facilities within the project areas. Storage technologies and structures such as metal silos, cribs, earthen pots, upgraded granaries and conventional stores were propagated as improved but simple storage structures that could be used by farmers for storage of their grains both for food security and transition prior to collective bulking.

Commercial Village farmers have continued appreciating the storage intervention and are experiencing increased benefits ranging from reduced post harvest losses and enhanced linkages to markets with improved sales/revenues. Due to changing weather patterns, the current harvest season set in later than expected hence harvesting has just commenced.

A Training of Trainers (ToTs) course was carried out in the second week of July where all the key project officers and other support staff involved in the CVS project were taken through practical and demonstration based training on various critical aspects on assorted grains post harvest management, storage technologies and quality control

Highlights of the project activities implemented during the month are as follows;

Tigania West

Activities	Deliverables	Activity Status
1. Selection of commercial village stores ♦ Stores identification and negotiation ♦ Stores branding	Stores established	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One store was branded.• One store was refurbished• House hold storage facilities were upgraded- aeration, installation of rat guards
2. Procurement of drying / quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons	Sieves, sampling spears and stores handling gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 sieves were constructed.• Stores food handling equipment were adopted - overalls, masks, gumboots• 2 hand held shellers and 4 ring shellers were procured• Training demonstration kit was acquired comprising of model crib, dryer and pallets

8. Conduct trainings on; Collective Marketing; Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees) ♦ Organize workshops and training forums	Farmers attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 farmers were trained on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Post harvest management and storage. • 29 farmers were trained on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ store management ✓ Quality management
Community technical farmers (COTEFs) capacity building ♦ Conduct training workshops	COTEFs attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 35 CoTEFs were trained on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Store management ✓ Post harvest handling ✓ Group dynamics
10. Link input suppliers with commercial village producers ♦ Hold field days ♦ Collective sourcing for inputs	Number of input suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial villages were linked to Taai Agro Limited and an agreement signed to sell inputs to farmers at a discounted wholesale price rather than retail price.
13. Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage ♦ Collective bulking, sorting and quality control ♦ Increase sales ♦ Increase grain collectively bulked and stored ♦ Enhance record keeping ♦ Training on village stores management	Inventory records and grain banking passbooks Quantity of grain sold / stored Transactional documents (invoices, receipts, delivery notes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 150 grain pass book were issued to farmers ♦ Harvesting has just commenced and assorted pulses are being bulked in the Commercial village stores with current stocks as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beans - 6200 kgs ○ Cow peas - 2550 kgs ○ Dolichos - 150kgs ○ Green grams - 140 kgs ○ Maize - 900kgs

Tharaka

Activities	Deliverables	Activity Status
1. Selection of commercial village stores ♦ Stores identification and negotiation ♦ Stores branding	Stores established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Household stores were upgraded to demonstrate better post harvest and storage management at 2 stores per Commercial Village • 1 transitional store established in Tunyai to enhance collective bulking and storage
2. Procurement of drying / quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons	Sieves, sampling spears and stores handling gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two metal silos fabricated to demonstrate alternative storage techniques for farmers • 1 sieve was made for Tunyai transitional store • 2 hand held shellers and 4 ring shellers were procured • Training demonstration kit was acquired comprising of model crib, dryer and pallets

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers were trained on use of cribs, pots and other enhanced simple methods of storage that are affordable but maintain the quality of their produce.
<p>3. Conduct trainings on; Collective Marketing; Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize workshops and training forums 	Farmers attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted training on post harvest management , collective bulking and storage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mucore mutethia farmer groups Remuki farmer groups Wanaruona farmer groups Gachangi farmer groups Ubarani Green farmer groups 5 TOTs were trained in Gatunga on grain quality management 4 TOTs were trained in Tunyai on Quality Management
<p>11. Collection, bulking cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective bulking, sorting and quality control Increase sales Increase grain collectively bulked and stored Enhance record keeping Training on village stores management 	<p>Inventory records and grain banking passbooks</p> <p>Quantity of grain sold / stored</p> <p>Transactional documents (invoices, receipts, delivery notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulking has started both in the Household stores and Transitional store: Approximately 700 bags have been stored in the transitional store 2 Village based trainings on store management were conducted in Ubarini and Mariene villages

Imenti South

Activities	Deliverables	Activity Status
<p>1. Selection of commercial village stores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stores identification and negotiation Stores branding 	Stores established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Transitional store established at Mweru commercial village where five Commercial Producer groups are bulking their produce (Maize, Beans, Green grams, Cowpeas and Sorghum) Mweru CV store was branded
<p>2. Procurement of drying / quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons</p>	Sieves, sampling spears and stores handling gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procured 2 sieves, Dunnages and Sampling spears. 2 hand held shellers and 4 ring shellers were procured Training demonstration kit was acquired comprising of model crib, dryer and pallets

8. Conduct trainings on; Collective Marketing; Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees) ♦ Organize workshops and training forums	Farmers attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on quality management, Post harvest Management and Collective Marketing conducted on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 55 farmers from Ntakani cpg ○ 32 farmers From Muchui cpg ○ 193 from Mweru CV
11. Link input suppliers with commercial village producers ♦ Hold field days ♦ Collective sourcing for inputs	Number of input suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A field day held within the Month where Twiga chemicals, Kari, Ministry of Agriculture and Mburugu Agro dealers participated and show cased their product and services to farmers.
11. Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage ♦ Collective bulking, sorting and quality control ♦ Increase sales ♦ Increase grain collectively bulked and stored ♦ Enhance record keeping ♦ Training on village stores management	Inventory records and grain banking passbooks Quantity of grain sold / stored Transactional documents (invoices, receipts, delivery notes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Executive committee members were trained on Store management and enhanced on Groups records keeping. • About 3500 Kgs of assorted grains are already bulked in the commercial village transitional stores.

Tigania East

Activities	Deliverables	Activity Status
1. Selection of commercial village stores ♦ Stores identification and negotiation ♦ Stores branding	Stores established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two transitional stores were established and storage on progress. • 6 house hold stores were upgraded during the month. • One store branded (Marega commercial village store)
2. Procurement of drying / quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons	Sieves, sampling spears and stores handling gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sieves were constructed in the month. • 2 hand held shellers and 4 ring shellers were procured • Training demonstration kit was acquired comprising of model crib, dryer and pallets

<p>8. Conduct trainings on; Collective Marketing; Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</p> <p>♦ Organize workshops and training forums</p>	<p>Farmers attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CV leaders training on maize standards were conducted and 37 participants attended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marega commercial village ✓ Kaguata commercial village ✓ Amatu commercial village <p>Several trainings were conducted across 9 villages including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 villages were trained on the Commercial village model • 18 CPGs were trained on Village saving and credit scheme and adopted the pass books. • 9 villages were trained on Marketing and quality assurance • 9 villages were trained on Communal storage for common bulking • 9 villages were trained on House hold storage at individual level • 9 villages were trained on Stores record keeping and the recording adopted in the transitional stores.
<p>10. Linking producers with buyers; Buyer seller forums</p> <p>♦ Organize and hold buyer seller business forums to</p> <p>♦ Negotiation on trade parameters between commercial village farmers and key identified buyers</p>	<p>Key buyers identified and linked to commercial villages</p>	<p>Two buyer seller forums were held with two wholesale traders and linkages strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julius Kiambati • Mikaelina Amatu
<p>11. Link input suppliers with commercial village producers</p> <p>♦ Hold field days</p> <p>♦ Collective sourcing for inputs</p>	<p>Number of input suppliers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCPB was identified as the target input supplier for fertilizer. • Discussions on the supply of fertilizer have been done with the NCPB Meru depot management. • Sourcing planning has been done and groups are carrying out saving plan to enhance the procurement • 1 field day held in collaboration with MOA at Kamujine farm with 586 CV farmers attending.
<p>13. Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</p> <p>♦ Collective bulking, sorting and quality control</p> <p>♦ Increase sales</p> <p>♦ Increase grain collectively bulked and stored</p> <p>♦ Enhance record keeping</p> <p>♦ Training on village stores</p>	<p>Inventory records and grain banking passbooks</p> <p>Quantity of grain sold / stored</p> <p>Transactional documents (invoices,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grain passbooks have been filled on the grain bulked • 86 bags of pulses have been bulked in Marega commercial village and the activity is still in progress. • 21 bags of pulses already stored in Amatu transitional store.

management	receipts, delivery notes	
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Jinja, Uganda

Activities	Deliverables	Activity Status
1. Selection of commercial village stores ♦ Stores identification and negotiation ♦ Stores branding	Stores established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Communal Stores have been identified and upgrading is in progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Buyengo s/county- Nakagyo CV(at Nakagyo trading centre) b) Butagaya s/county- Namagera CV (at Namagera trading center) Lease agreements have already been signed for each store. Two security personnel have been hired for the two stores.
2. Procurement of drying / quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons	Sieves, sampling spears and stores handling gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two hermetic cocoons and collapsible bags for drying are in place in Jinja site. 4 sieves and Handling gears procured for each store / site (1 sieve per store and cocoon) Two moisture and oxygen meters were procured for the site. 9 Pallets were constructed for each of the two hired stores(6 for Nakagyo and 3 for Namagera store) 3 hand held shellers and 6 ring shellers were procured Training demonstration kit was acquired comprising of model crib, dryer and pallets 2 weighing machines were procured
5. Capacity building and training of store personnel ♦ Development of training materials outline ♦ Hiring resource person ♦ Training	Practical implementation of skills acquired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings were carried out on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collective marketing ○ Post harvest handling ○ Savings and commercial village model

<p>8. Conduct trainings on; Collective Marketing; Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</p> <p>♦ Organize workshops and training forums</p>	<p>Farmers attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 425 farmers (254 male and 171 female) in Buyengo and Butagaya were trained on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post harvest handling ○ Collective marketing ○ Quality management.
<p>10. Linking producers with buyers; Buyer seller forums</p> <p>♦ Organize and hold buyer seller business forums to</p> <p>♦ Negotiation on trade parameters between commercial village farmers and key identified buyers</p>	<p>Key buyers identified and linked to commercial villages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up forums were held with the buyers that had been identified and prioritized that is; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ugachick Poultry Breeders LTD ▪ Hill top company LTD • Both companies are interested to buy Maize and soya bean bulked by farmers. • A traders forum with 6 local wholesale traders in Buyengo was conducted with the aim of establishing market linkages with the farmers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ibanda Richard ○ Mandwa James ○ Badhube Charles ○ Mayanja Godfrey ○ Nampeke Patrick ○ Muwereza Paul.
<p>12. Grow awareness on storage infrastructures services provided by FCI and COMPETE and benefits of utilizing this infrastructures.</p> <p>♦ Courtesy calls [MOA, Provincial administration/Counties, Local NGOs, Group reps]</p> <p>♦ Hold community forums / barazas and focused village meetings</p>	<p>Number of attendants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 farmers have been sensitized on the storage infrastructures supported by FCI and COMPETE • 10 village meetings have been held in Buyengo and Butagaya
<p>13. Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</p> <p>♦ Collective bulking, sorting and quality control</p> <p>♦ Increase sales</p> <p>♦ Increase grain collectively bulked and stored</p> <p>♦ Enhance record keeping</p> <p>♦ Training on village stores management</p>	<p>Inventory records and grain banking passbooks</p> <p>Quantity of grain sold / stored</p> <p>Transactional documents(invoices, receipts, delivery notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued stock and inventory books to Namagera and Nakagyo CVs • Grain-banking passbooks were printed and are being distributed to the farmers. • An initial total of 8000 kgs of beans were sold to local wholesale traders as the harvest season gets underway.

Annexes



Commercial Village Storage personnel in the store



Demonstration on shelling of maize using improved sheller technology